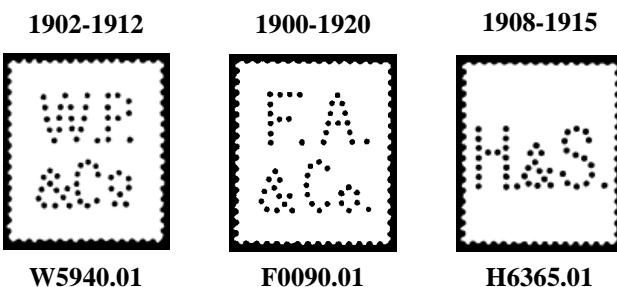


A Possible Liverpool Perforating Machine Maker.

Occasionally, when looking through the G.B. Perfins Catalogue, a collector can come across an unusual die that is somewhat similar to another one seen sometime before, but not having made a note of the ‘other one’, it’s impossible to compare the two (while the iron’s hot, as it were) to see if there is a connection. The dies in question have noticeably large letters in comparison to Sloper’s 4-pin high alphabet, so to remedy the situation, a search through the entire catalogue was undertaken making a note of each one found, and as a result there would appear to be a connection - Liverpool.

Of the *forty* dies originally noted, *thirty-one* had *Liverpool* postmarks, along with one each from Bootle, Kingston-on-Thames, Limerick, London EC, Manchester, Wolverhampton, and the remainder with no useful postmark information.



There are *three letter formats* within the whole group, *5-pin* high, *6-pin* high, and *7-pin* high letters. An example from each group is shown above, and in all three cases the known postmarks are for Liverpool. However, there does not appear to have been a ‘standard’ alphabet involved, but characteristic letters do occur in various groups of Perfins, and as can be seen, *stops abound!* There is also a continental look about them.

The fact that over *75%* of the dies were used in *Liverpool*, strongly hints at a Liverpool based die maker, or a Liverpool office supplier or stationer supplying perforating machines made by a local engineering firm or firms. The dies were first used in the closing years of Queen Victoria’s reign, right through the Edwardian era, and into the early years of King George V’s reign, say *1890-1915*, although later research points to an *1892* start date.

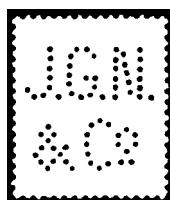


The Liverpool waterfront as it would have appeared in the late Victorian era.

The original list of forty dies grew over time to sixty-one, all of which have now been reappraised resulting in a list of just *forty-four*. Thirty-nine have Liverpool postmarks, one has Birkenhead, and the remaining four have no postmark evidence as yet but exhibit characteristics so striking that they are likely to have come from the same source.

Eight dies are known on stamps of Queen Victoria, all with Liverpool postmarks, and all are illustrated below in date order. An actual stamp with Perfin is also shown *where possible*.

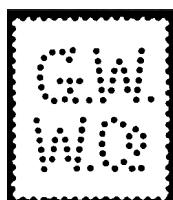
1892-1905



J3200.01

The above QV ½d (vermilion) Jubilee stamp dated **6th September 1892** with “J.G.N./&C°.” (J3200.01), known used by the Shipping Dept of **Julius G Neville & Co**, 14 Water St, Liverpool, is the *earliest known dated example* from this ‘Liverpool Maker’.

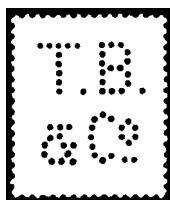
1895-1915



G5680.01



1895-1903



T0455.01



1895-1905



W7395.01



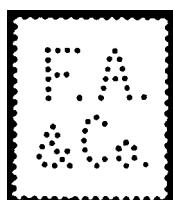
1900-1910



A3130.03



1900-1920



F0090.01



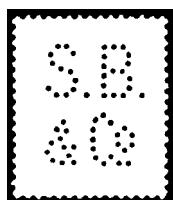
1900-1901



M0129.01



1900-1903



S0655.01



PERFINS of Great Britain. ————— Regional Die Makers —————

The next group of *twenty-six* dies (all bar two known with Liverpool postmarks) were introduced during the *Edwardian* era - again shown in approximate date order.

1902-1908



G1930.01

1902-1912



W5940.01



1902-1915



K0065.01



1902-1920



G0110.01



1902-1965



J5230.01



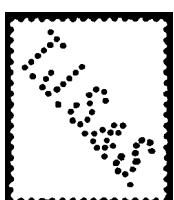
1903-1918



D3780.01



1903-1922



T2720.01



1903-1965



G2830.01



1904-1910



R1320.01



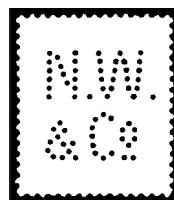
c1905



A5070.01



c1905



N3585.01



PERFINS of Great Britain. ————— Regional Die Makers —————

1905-1913



M3270.01



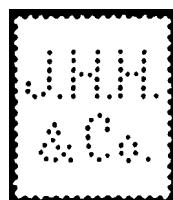
1905-1915



B6710.07



1905-1915



J3690.01



1905-1915



W2170.02



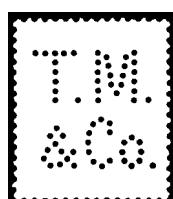
1905-1915



W3810.01



1905-1934



T3250.01



1905-1939



B2130.01



1905-1954



L1930.01



1905-1974



B1110.12M



1906-1923



J5400.02



1908-1915



H6365.01



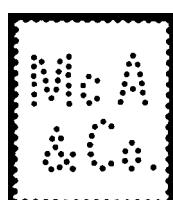
1908-1920



G1930.02



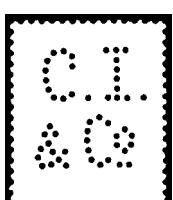
1910-1915



M1095.01



1910-1939



C3650.02



1910-1945



L1540.01



This third group of *eight* dies, all bar one with *Liverpool* postmarks, were introduced during the first few years of King George V's reign, and again are shown in approximate date order.

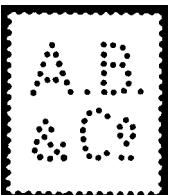
c1912



P0946.01



1912-1915



A0627.01



ONE PENNY

1912-1939



N2570.01



1912-1954



J5040.01



c1913



C3780.01



ONE PENNY

1913-1918



J3580.01



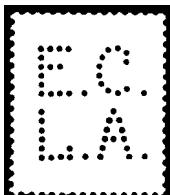
1913-1932



J1630.01



1913-1935

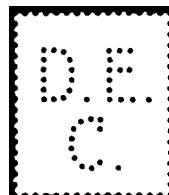


E0740.01



TWO PENCE

1915-1922



D1490.01



This just leaves one die in use c1960, so well outside the **1892-1915** footprint, but included due to its striking resemblance to the Kley Brothers own die, "K.B." (K0065.01), which is discussed later. We know the "K.H." die was made much earlier than 1960 as it can be found on KGV Contract Notes, but it appears to have only been applied to Postage Stamps decades later. The "K.H." die is slightly taller than Kley's own "K.B.", which rules out the possibility that the die was modified to produce "K.H.".

c1960



K0915.01



2d POSTAGE REVENUE 2d



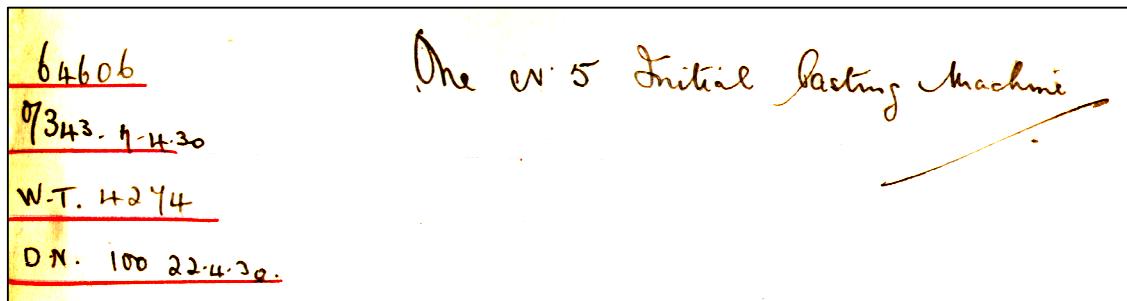
1913-1932



J1630.01

Of particular interest is “**J.C./P.**” which appears in the Sloper ledgers. The die is known used from c1913 (earliest date known is **21st October 1913**), but the dispatch date against the Sloper entry is **22nd April 1930!** It should be made clear that none of the other dies reported in this study are in the Sloper ledgers.

However, by careful inspection of the two dies, the Sloper version can be seen to differ from the original. For example, the serif to the “C” projects inboard on the original, whereas it projects outboard on Sloper’s version. The curved base to the “J” is also subtly different. The Sloper ‘copy’, known used **1930-1932**, has been allocated **J1630.01a**, and was probably intended specifically for the London Office of J C Plimpton & Co Ltd, Furniture Mfrs.



J Sloper & Co are also known to have replicated the original POKO die “VL” for **Venesta Ltd** c1952, almost certainly at the request of the customer. As with the ‘**Plimpton & Co**’ die, subtle differences allow the two dies to be differentiated.

PERFINS of Great Britain. ————— Regional Die Makers —————

This is a brief listing of the dies involved, many of which have identified users.

	Cat No.	Letters	Die in use	Earliest Date	Postmark	Pins High
1	J3200.01	J.G.N./&C°..	1892-1905	19-Apr-99	Liverpool	6
2	G5680.01	G.W./W.C°..	1895-1915	13-Mar-01	Liverpool	6
3	T0455.01	T.B./&C°..	1895-1903	01-Jan-01	Liverpool	6
4	W7395.01	W.T./C..	1895-1905	20-Jul-98	Liverpool	6
5	A3130.03	A.J..	1900-1910	05-Oct-01	Liverpool	7
6	F0090.01	F.A./&C°..	1900-1920	13-Apr-01	Liverpool	6
7	M0129.01	M.A./C..	1900-1901	17-Sep-01	Liverpool	6
8	S0655.01	S.B./&C°..	1900-1903	... Jan-02	Liverpool	6
9	G1930.01	G.G./B..	1902-1908	04-Dec-02	Liverpool	5
10	W5940.01	W.P./&C°..	1902-1912	02-Apr-03	Liverpool	5
11	K0065.01	K.B..	1902-1915	02-Dec-02	Liverpool	7
12	G0110.01	G.A./&C°..	1902-1920	---	Liverpool	5
13	J5230.01	J.M..	1902-1965	21-Feb-02	Liverpool	7
14	D3780.01	D.&P..	1903-1918	07-Feb-17	---	7
15	T2720.01	T.J.S.&S..	1903-1922	29-Sep-04	Liverpool	6
16	G2830.01	G.J.N..	1903-1965	04-Nov-08	Liverpool	7
17	R1320.01	R&D..	1904-1910	01-Dec-04	Liverpool	6
18	A0570.01	A.S./&C°..	c1905	---	Liverpool	6
19	N3585.01	N.W./&C°..	c1905	---	---	6
20	M3270.01	M&J..	1905-1913	06-May-06	Liverpool	6
21	B6710.07	B&S/L..	1905-1915	22-Sep-06	Liverpool	6
22	J3690.01	J.H.H./&C°..	1905-1915	12-Oct-08	Liverpool	6
23	W2170.02	W.E..	1905-1915	... Dec-05	Liverpool	7
24	W3810.01	W.H.S..	1905-1915	Mar-08	Liverpool	6
25	T3250.01	T.M./&C°..	1905-1934	01-Dec-06	Liverpool	6
26	B2130.01	B&D/L..	1905-1939	24-Dec-08	Liverpool	6
27	L1930.01	L.E./&P..	1905-1954	02-May-05	Liverpool	6
28	B1110.12M	BC..	1905-1974	18-Jul-08	Birkenhead	6
29	J5400.02	J.M/L ^{td} ..	1906-1923	10-Aug-10	Liverpool	6
30	H6365.01	H.&S..	1908-1915	14-Oct-13	Liverpool	7
31	G1930.02	G.G./B..	1908-1920	08-Oct-08	Liverpool	6
32	M1095.01	McA/&C°..	1910-1915	02-Sep-11	Liverpool	6
33	C3650.02	C.I./&C°..	1910-1939	18-May-10	Liverpool	6
34	L1540.01	L.D.C..	1910-1945	... 1934	Liverpool	6
35	P0946.01	P.C./A..	c1912	11-Apr-12	Liverpool	6
36	A0627.01	A.B./&C°..	1912-1915	---	Liverpool	6
37	N2570.01	N.P./C°..	1912-1939	28-Jun-15	Liverpool	6
38	J5040.01	J.L./&S..	1912-1954	31-Jan-27	Liverpool	6
39	C3780.01	CI/TY..	c1913	---	---	6
40	J3580.01	J.H./&C°...	1913-1918	29-Oct-13	Liverpool	6
41	J1630.01	J.C./P..	1913-1932	21-Oct-13	Liverpool	6
42	E0740.01	E.C./L.A..	1913-1935	11-Mar-14	Liverpool	6
43	K0915.01	K.H..	c1960	---	---	7
44	D1490.01	D.E./C..	1915-1922	... 1916	Liverpool	6
J Sloper & Co 'Look-alike'.						
45	J1630.01a	J.C./P..	1930-1932	---	---	6

Stop Press!

Spotted by **Maurice Harp** on e-Bay in **July 2015**, an Identifying cover with the distinctive “K.B.” (K0065.01) Perfin. This is proof that the **Kley Bros** did indeed use the die, and also adds weight to the possibility that they made the other perforating machines, or at least out-sourced their manufacture, as part of their ‘Office Requisites’ line of business.



The forty or so dies with specific Liverpool users were introduced over a period of 23 years (**1892-1915**), so with only one or two machines being ordered in any one year, that particular part of their business couldn't have been anything other than a side-line.



Shown above is their ‘lengthy’ entry in an 1898 Liverpool Trade Directory, along with their alphabetical entry shown below. This particular record is interesting in that it gives the first name of one of the brothers, ‘**August**’.

Kley August printer (K. Bros.) 118 & 120 Dale st. W — Bros. rubber stamp mkr. & printers 118&120 Dale st.W

Although not related to Perfins or even perforating machines, this advertisement shows the lengths the company took to advertise its wares far afield (literally).

Aberdeen Evening Express for 1st December 1910.

GENERAL ELECTION.

KLEY BROS., LTD., 118-120, Dale-street, Liverpool, have reduced prices &c
SIGN MARKERS for Posting Up Results of Poll
Manufacturers of Rubber Stamps, Daters, &c.

As a result of ‘due diligence’, **Maurice Harp** found this notification of winding up posted in the **London Gazette**. The 1915 date ties in perfectly with the suspected working period of **1892-1915** derived from an analysis of the dates of introduction of the dies. The fact that many dies continued in use after 1915 supports the idea that perforating machines were made for use by the customer, rather than for perforating stamps provided ‘over the counter’ by Kley Bros.

In the Matter of the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, and of KLEY BROTHERS Limited.

NOTICE is hereby given, that at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Members of the above named Company, duly convened, and held at 37, Litherland-park, near Liverpool, on Tuesday, the 6th day of April, 1915, the following Extraordinary Resolution was duly passed:—

“That it has been proved to the satisfaction of this Meeting that the Company cannot, by reason of its liabilities, continue its business, and that it is advisable to wind up the same, and accordingly that the Company be wound up voluntarily; and that Mr. Louis Nicholas, of 19, Castle-street, Liverpool, be and he is hereby appointed Liquidator for the purpose of such winding-up.”

Dated this 6th day of April, 1915.

JOHN CLAY, Chairman.

WRITE FOR CATALOGUE.

Kley Bros., Ltd.,
BRANDING STAMP
MANUFACTURERS,
118-120, Dale Street,
LIVERPOOL.

This man is saving time and money by using our **FLEXIBLE COMPOSITION STAMPS** cheaper and better than Stencils, and you can mark any Cases or Bags in the time you could stencil one.

However, it may well be that the winding up order was not fully carried out as **Kley Bros Ltd** continued to trade from the same address and in the same line of business as the following Advertisement in another obscure publication shows:

The Cambrian News and Welsh Farmers Gazette for 27th December 1918.

Worthy of note is the fact that there are no more ‘new dies’ produced after 1915, the last may have been “D.E./C.” (D1490.01), so perhaps they dropped that very small part of their business after the ‘winding up’ proceedings, or more probably as a result the reconstruction of the company.

What were the names of the brothers?

We know from the 1898 Liverpool Trade Directory reference that the name of one of the Kley's working out of 118-120 Dale St was ***August Kley***, although admittedly he may have been the father rather than one of the brothers. A search for August Kley in the ***1901 Census*** found an '**A C Kley**', Rubber Stamp Maker (employer) residing at 118/120 Dale St, Liverpool. He's aged 38 and stated to have been born in Denmark, although I suspect this is an error for Germany. ***Augustine C Kley*** died in Liverpool of Tuberculosis in 1908, aged 45.

The ***1891 Census*** is a little more illuminating, as this transcript shows.

1891 Census - taken on the night of 5th April 1891.

7 Rappart Rd, Poulton-cum-Seacombe, Wallasey, Wirral. {RG12-2897 p35 Sch 244}.

Name	Relation	Cond	Age	Born	Occupation	Where born
George KLEY	Boarder	Single	32	1859	<i>India Rubber Stamp Maker</i>	Germany
August KLEY	Boarder	Single	28	1863	<i>India Rubber Stamp Maker</i>	Germany

The 'brothers' were lodging with a Wheelwright, next door to Richard S Keating, a ***Stationer***.

August Kley (aged 28) and George Kley (aged 32) were both born in Germany, are found lodging on the Wirral at the time of the 1891 census. Although not stated, they are probably brothers. However, if they were lodging in 1891 on the other side of the River Mersey, then they are not likely to have set up the Kley Brothers firm of Stationers in Liverpool until sometime afterwards, although perhaps quite soon afterwards as the earliest example is dated the ***6th September 1892***.

Stephen Steere and ***John Mathews*** have helped greatly with the earlier history of the younger brother, August Kley, the '**A C Kley**' aged 38 recorded in the 1901 Liverpool census, so born 1862/1863 depending on when his birthday fell.

On the 6th November 1878 ***August Chr Kley***, aged 16 (born c1862), departed ***Hamburg*** bound for Rockhampton, Queensland (Australia) aboard the sailing ship ***Charles Dickens***. He is described as a Landarbeiter (Farm Labourer) living in Ladegaard, Switzerland. The ship arrived in Rockhampton three months later on the 6th February 1879. However, his stay at Rockhampton was only for a few months as he's recorded as a steerage passenger on board ***The Clarence*** (410 tons), arriving at Sydney on the 11th May 1879.

We also have the arrival in New York on the 28th September 1899 of ***August Christian Kley***, aged 36yr 10mo, (so probably born in November 1862), nationality German and described as an ***engraver***. He sailed on board the ***SS Teutonic*** (White Star Line) which left Liverpool a week or so earlier. Also on record is ***Augustus Christian Kley*** making patent applications in 1899, so could this be the reason for his visit to New York that year?

No record can be found of his return from Queensland/New South Wales to Germany, Switzerland, or indeed elsewhere. Nor can his return trip from New York be found, although we know he was back in Liverpool at the time of the 1901 census.

And finally, Augustus Kley's Probate involves a tidy sum but as a solicitor was named as the executor, George may well not have been in England or even still alive at this date.

In Summary.

- Earliest recorded actual date is ***6th September 1892*** on “J.G.N./&C°..” (J3200.01), known used in Liverpool by the Shipping Department of ***Julius G Neville & Co***, 14 Water St.
- Perforating machines were probably ‘obtained’ and sold to customers for their own use rather than perforated stamps being supplied ‘over the counter’.
- Latest known use is ***14th November 1972*** on “BC” (B1110.12M), a **6x1** multiheaded die used by ***Birkenhead Corporation***. Machine was kept in the Borough Treasurer’s Dept.
- There are no ‘Stamp Perforating Machine Manufacturers’ listed in an 1899 Liverpool Trade Directory, but upwards of 600 stationers! However, of the twelve India Rubber Stamp Mfrs listed, ***Kley Bros*** in Dale Street was by far the biggest and also advertised ***‘all kinds of accessories supplied to the trade’***. They are also known to have used the “K.B.” (K0065.01) die themselves, so may well be our mystery Perfin machine maker, or more likely outsourced their construction.



* * * * *

The following dies, in approximate date order, were ***once on the list*** but have now been removed on the grounds that they are less likely to have been supplied by our Liverpool ‘maker’. However, if the evidence is convincing, some may eventually find their way back on the list!

1885-1886



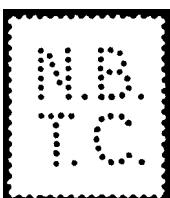
S4900.02

1895-1936



J0480.01

1902-1915



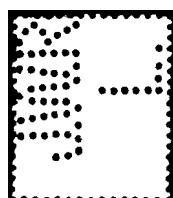
N0430.01

c1903



A4720.02

1903-1910



J8568.01

1905-1910



A5020.02

1905-1915



F3490.01

1905-1939



J1980.02M

PERFINS of Great Britain. ————— Regional Die Makers —————

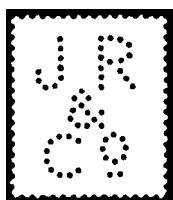
1908-1915



F0390.01



1908-1936



J6485.01



1910-1915



B2320.03



1912-1925



O1185.01



1912-1975



J6420.01M



1913-1920



J7105.01



1930-1939



L3470.01



1930-1939



S6270.01



The relatively late appearance of "LL/C°" (L3470.01) and "S.R./&C°.../" (S6270.01) probably means that they were *not* made by our 'Liverpool' die maker, but simply happen to show some of the characteristics.

	Cat No.	Letters	Die in use	Earliest Date	Postmark	Pins High
46	S4900.02	SMC°	1885-1886	01-Jan-86	Liverpool	6
47	J0480.01	J.B.	1895-1936	24-Apr-00	Aldridge (Staffs)	7
48	N0430.01	N.B./T.C.	1902-1915	28-Oct-02	Wolverhampton	6
49	A4720.02	A.R.	c1903	---	Newcastle-on Tyne	7
50	J8568.01	J.W.R/L.	1903-1910	08-Apr-03	Leeds	7
51	A5020.02	A.S./&C.	1905-1910	---	Manchester	6
52	F3490.01	F.&R.	1905-1915	09-Mar-08	London EC	7
53	J1980.02M	J.D.	1905-1939	12-Oct-08	Hemel Hempstead	7
54	F0390.01	F.B./K.	1908-1915	07-Dec-09	Kingston-on-Thames	6
55	J6485.01	JR/&C°..	1908-1936	06-Feb-09	Bristol	6
56	B2320.03	B.E.	1910-1915	---	---	7
57	O1185.01	O'M/Cross	1912-1925	05-Aug-16	Limerick	6
58	J6420.01M	J.R.	1912-1975	24-Sep-12	Hull	6
59	J7105.01	J.S./L.	1913-1920	03-Feb-20	London N17	6
60	L3470.01	LL/C°	1930-1939	14-Jun-35	Bootle	6
61	S6270.01	S.R./&C°.../..	1930-1939	---	Liverpool	6

Acknowledgements.

Originally compiled to be shown at the Perfin Society meeting held in London on **9th May 2015**, my thanks go to the following collectors who have kindly provided scans of some of the more elusive dies featured in this study, along with other additional details.

Maurice Harp, John Mathews, Peter Maybury, Ron Mills, Rosemary Smith, Villy Sorensen, Stephen Steere, and Barrie Williamson.

And finally, if you can add anything new to the study, particularly any dies you think I might have missed or possibly not know about, *I'd be pleased to hear from you!*

Roy Gault - ***Ist June 2016.***